

## Message Text

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TAGS: EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: TEL AVIV 10643

CAIRO FOR ATHERTON

SUMMARY: TODAY'S PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON THE  
PROPOSALS WHICH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL PRESENT TO  
PRESIDENT CARTER. COMMENTATORS WRITE THAT BEGIN  
IS SEEKING U.S. SUPPORT FOR HIS PLAN, WHICH REPORTEDLY  
WILL PROPOSE A NEW STATUS FOR THE WEST BANK. THE PLAN  
WILL ALSO, ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, CALL FOR THE  
RETURN OF SINAI TO EGYPT. SOME MINISTERS ARE REPORTED  
TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PLAN BUT REPORTERS AGREE  
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THAT THERE IS UNANIMITY ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUED  
SECURITY CONTROL IN THE WEST BANK. END SUMMARY

1. THE GENERAL AIR OF EXPECTATION ACCOMPANIED BY  
SOME APPREHENSION CONTINUES IN TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE  
OF BEGIN'S TRIP. THERE IS LESS COMMENT THAT YESTERDAY  
REGARDING A CHANGE IN HIS EARLIER DETERMINATION NOT

TO CONSULT WITH THE U.S. AND MORE REPORTING THAT HE IS SEEKING U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE NEXT STEPS WITH EGYPT. FOR EXAMPLE, A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY JERUSALEM POST EDITOR ERWIN FRENKEL FROM WASHINGTON PREDICTS THAT BEGIN WILL PROBE THE EXTENT OF AMERICAN SUPPORT WHICH ISRAEL CAN EXPECT REGARDING POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS WITH ARAB STATES. IN AN UNUSUAL FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY, AL HAMISHMAR SAYS THAT BEGIN IS SEEKING TO WIDEN ISRAEL'S MANEUVERABILITY BY OBTAINING THE BACKING OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION: "COORDINATION BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON MAY ALLOW ISRAEL FLEXIBILITY WITHOUT THE FEAR OF LOSING ITS COMPLETE FREEDOM TO MANEUVER." AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME PAPER SAYS THAT "IF BEGIN HAS ACTUALLY GIVEN UP HIS RIGIDITY AND IS READY TO COMPROMISE IN A MANNER ABLE TO BRING US CLOSER TO A SETTLEMENT, HE WILL HAVE EVERYBODY'S BLESSINGS." FRENKEL ALSO SAYS THAT ISRAEL WILL BE SEEKING AMERICAN GUARANTEES AND INFLUENCE WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. DANNY BLOCH WRITES IN DAVAR THAT BEGIN'S GOALS ARE THREEFOLD: HE WILL SEEK THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S OPENING NEGOTIATING POSITION, HE WILL TRY TO COORDINATE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN POSITIONS, AND HE WILL TRY TO INDUCE THE PRESIDENT NOT TO PREVENT A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT.

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2. REPORTERS AND COMMENTATORS ALSO SPECULATE ABOUT THE PROVISIONS IN THE PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK. BENZIMAN WRITES IN HAARETZ THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES TO OPPOSE ANY PARTITION OF THE WEST BANK AND WILL PROPOSE A NEW STATUS WHICH WILL GRANT WEST BANK INHABITANTS LOCAL AUTONOMY BUT WITHOUT CREATING ANY POSSIBILITY FOR THE AREA TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT STATE. BENZIMAN ALSO SAYS THAT BEGIN'S PROPOSALS WILL SUGGEST A FUNCTIONAL ARRANGEMENT IN THE WEST BANK BUT ADDS THAT THIS SETTLEMENT WOULD BE AN INTERIM ONE AND WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED AFTER A PERIOD OF A YEAR IN THE SPIRIT OF THE "BRZEZINSKI PLAN."

3. THESE REPORTS INCLUDE MORE ATTENTION TO THE FUTURE OF SINAI THAN HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY NOTED. FRENKEL BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL CALL FOR AN INCREASED AMERICAN PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN SINAI, PERHAPS AT SHARM EL SHEIKH. BENZIMAN SAYS THAT JERUSALEM IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE SINAI PENINSULA WHILE SEEKING "SECURITY STRONGHOLDS OR SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ITS SECURITY IN THE AREA AND FREEDOM OF

NAVIGATION IN THE WATERS AROUND SINAI." BENZIMAN  
SAYS THAT ISRAEL HAS ALREADY MAPPED OUT THESE  
PROPOSALS FOR SINAI.

4. THERE IS ALSO SOME COMMENT THAT THE PLAN AND  
ITS PROPOSALS MAY CAUSE SOME DISSENSION OR DIS-  
AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. HAARETZ SAYS  
THAT DIFFERENCES ON THE SETTLEMENT WHICH IS TO BE  
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEST BANK ARE EXPECTED TO EMERGE,  
WITH SOME MINISTERS ARGUING THAT THE WEST BANK  
SHOULD BE GUARANTEED SOME LINK WITH JORDAN WHILE  
OTHERS, INCLUDING BEGIN, INSIST ON A NEW AND DIFFERENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE WITHOUT PREDETERMINING ANY  
LINK TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. YEDIOT AHARANOT REPORTS  
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THAT YADIN AND BURG WILL ASK THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
PERMIT THEM TO CONSULT WITH ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OF  
THEIR PARTIES REGARDING AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE  
INTERMINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS "IN ORDER TO RELIEVE  
THE MINISTERS OF SHOULDERING THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF DECIDING ALONE ON QUESTIONS OF CONSCIOUS." BENZIMAN  
SUMS IT UP BEST WHEN HE SAYS THAT REGARDLESS  
OF THE DIFFERENCES, "THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INTENDS  
TO GUARANTEE ISRAELI SECURITY CONTROL OVER THE WEST BANK  
AND THE RIGHT OF ISRAELIS TO RESIDE THERE." VIETS UNQTE VANCE

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